

## Roe Offers Amendment to Lower the Cost of Volunteerism for Taxpayers

Offers Amendment  
to Cap Spending on National Service Programs

WASHINGTON,  
DC -- Congressman  
Phil Roe (TN-1) today offered an amendment on the House floor to H.R. 1388, the  
Generations Invigorating Volunteering and Education (GIVE) Act.  
Roe's Amendment would cap the authorized levels for spending on the AmeriCorps  
program to 2008 levels. The amendment would reduce spending on the  
volunteer program by \$23 million. Congressman Roe offered the amendment  
to restrain spending on the AmeriCorps volunteer program at a time of record  
deficits and economic crisis. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 175  
to 256. Below is his statement on his amendment:

"My  
amendment would cap the authorization level in this legislation for Fiscal Year  
2010 at the FY 08 level of \$405 million. This is five percent less than  
FY 09, which I think reflects what state and local governments are asking their  
programs to do all over the country.

"The  
legislation we have before us today continues the process of turning the  
AmeriCorps program into a much more streamlined, cost-efficient program that is  
leveraging a great deal of service for the dollars we are spending. While  
I have some concerns that a few programs warrant additional scrutiny, the  
majority of programs within the national service laws are performing very well.

"With  
that being said, the fact is we are in a recession and face record  
deficits. The legislation before us includes a sense of Congress that  
AmeriCorps and several of the other programs should increase the number of  
volunteers to 250,000, up from its current level of just over 75,300, which if  
achieved would represent a 300 percent increase. While it seems to me  
this is a worthy goal for the future, I'm concerned about the temptation to try  
to get there all at once without some direction to the Appropriations Committee

on how much funding to allocate the program.

"Nothing

in this amendment prevents the program from growing in future years. If our economy gets back on track and revenue increases, which we are all hoping will happen, I think it's perfectly reasonable in future years to increase the funding for the program. At least for this year, however, when our focus should be on tightening our belts to lower our deficits, this amendment sets what I think is a reasonable boundary for the program.

"I

urge adoption of this amendment and reserve the balance of my time.

At

the close of debate, Congressman Roe stated:

"I

know I am new here to Congress, and probably don't understand the way things work, but I have a basic philosophy I have applied throughout my public service. It's simple: government should spend less than it takes in. It's a concept that our state governments and local governments achieve every year, and I know there's pain, but they get it done because that's what they have to do. States like California and Tennessee have had to make major spending cuts this year to bring their budgets to balance.

"Congress,

unfortunately, seems to be best at completely ignoring this principle.

I'm not blaming Republicans or Democrats, because it's occurred under the watch of presidents from both parties, but now is our chance to do something about it. Our economy is in crisis, our deficits are soaring, and I think it's reasonable to ask good programs like AmeriCorps to join the rest of the country in tightening our belts and making do with what we have for one more year while we try to get out of this crisis.

"With

that, I urge adoption of my amendment and yield back the balance of my time."

H.R.

1388 would reauthorize the Corporation for National and Community Service, which funds the AmeriCorps program among many other programs.